

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

Export Live Animals to Costa Rica

Last Modified:

Electronic Signature and Digital Endorsement ACCEPTED

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature ACCEPTED

For APHIS VMO: Digital endorsement ACCEPTED

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for digital endorsement.

USDA can digitally endorse the health certificate and return it electronically.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

Animal Owners/Shippers: The endorsed health certificate can be printed out directly from VEHCS and does **not** have to be mailed back to you. The printed, endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or

travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Live Animal Export Country Requirements [View Requirements](#)

Summary of Requirements

[Expand All](#)

Equine

- [Horse - Protocol](#) - October 2016
- [Horses - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (118.06 KB) - February 2013
- [Horses - Costa Rican Horses Returning to Costa Rica after Competition - Health Certificate](#) (104.86 KB) - July 2018

Cattle

NOTE: Effective **May 22, 2024** there is a trade restriction on cattle due to HPAI detections in U.S. cattle. **Costa Rica** has prohibited the export of live cattle originating from states affected by HPAI in U.S. cattle.

- [Cattle - Protocol](#) (21.81 KB)- August 2007
- [Watusi - Protocol](#) (161.44 KB)- February 2007
- [Bovine - Embryos - Health Certificate](#) - March 2019
Note: Costa Rica does not require any statements about BSE on the bovine semen and embryo protocols.
- [Bovine - Semen - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) (61.55 KB)- November 2011
Note: Costa Rica does not require any statements about BSE on the bovine semen and embryo protocols.

Sheep and Goats

- [Goats - Health Certificate](#) (235.32 KB)-November 2017
- [Sheep - Health Certificate](#) (80.12 KB) -January 2015
- [Caprine - Semen - Protocol](#) (35.09 KB)- February 2012
- [Caprine - Embryos - Protocol](#) (66.14 KB)-June 2012
- [Ovine - Semen - Protocol](#) (30.99 KB) -January 2012
- [Ovine - Embryos - Protocol](#) (49.44 KB) - June 2012

Swine

- [Swine - Breeding - Health Certificate](#) (98.03 KB) - October 2015
- [Swine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (397.39 KB) -August 2018

Poultry

- [Poultry - Day-old Chicks, Poults, and Hatching Eggs - Protocol](#) (92.04 KB) - October 2018

Birds (non-Poultry)

- [Wild Birds - Health Certificate](#) (324.09 KB)- August 2021

Taking a Pet to Another Country?

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Aquaculture/Aquatic Animals

APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility [approval is required](#) for tilapia and ornamental aquatic animals.

- [Tilapia - Health Certificate](#) (193.41 KB) -April 2019
- [Ornamental Aquatic Animals - Health Certificate](#) (283.41 KB)-August 2021

Note: Only those U.S. origin **ornamental** aquatic animal species listed in the PDF posted below (including marine fish, inland fish, invertebrates, coral and live food species) have market access and are approved for export from the United States to Costa Rica. Those who wish to export U.S. origin **ornamental** aquatic animal species that are **not** included on these posted lists will need to have their Costa Rican importer contact the National Animal Health Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Costa Rica to request a special import permit.

[Eligible U.S. Ornamental Aquatic Animal Species to Costa Rica](#) (346.27 KB)

Research/Laboratory Animals

- [Laboratory Animals - Semen and Embryos - Health Certificate](#) (270.39 KB) - June 2019

Other Animals

- [Striped Skunks - Protocol](#) (13.37 KB)-July 2012
- [Crickets - Health Certificate](#) (81.94 KB) - December 2016
- [Canine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (418.99 KB)-April 2018
- [Zoo Bovidae - Protocol](#) (27.39 KB)-October 2007
- [Antelopes and Watusi - Protocol](#) (161.44 KB) -February 2007
- [Zebra - Protocol](#) (19.72 KB) -February 2007
- [Dromedary - Protocol](#) (19.38 KB) -February 2007
- [Giraffe - Protocol](#) (19.4 KB)- February 2007
- [Warthog - Protocol](#) (17.33 KB) -February 2007

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Costa Rica Import Permit Information

Importers in Costa Rica must apply for an import permit. Importers may obtain an import permit at the following address:

Ministerio Agricultura y Ganaderia
Chief, Animal Quarantine
Apartado 10094
Barrial Heredia
San Jose - 1000
Costa Rica
Telephone: 011-506-238-2371
Facsimile: 011-506-237-7697

If your species is not listed, the requirements for that species are not known. Exporters who want to ship livestock or germplasm whose requirements are not listed above should have the importer or buyer in the destination country apply for an import permit at the appropriate ministry. This import permit will most likely outline the specific requirements.

Need Help?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for animals (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments); issuance of health certificates; and status updates on certificate endorsement.

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

APHIS Live Animal Industry Team

APHIS Veterinary Services' Industry Team has commodity-specific expertise in export requirements for live animals. Use the contacts below for questions about endorsing an export health certificate or related topics.

[View Helpful Tips and Information](#)

[All Contacts](#)

Related Resources

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Live Animal Exports](#)
- [VEHCS Login](#)
- [National Veterinary Accreditation Program: Information for Veterinarians](#)
- [Role of the Accredited Veterinarian in International Animal Exports](#)

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